Vermont Health Access
Pharmacy Benefit Management Program

October, November and December 2007

Quarterly Report to Health Access Oversight Committee

Q2 SFY 2008

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The Agency of Human Services, Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA), is pleased to provide the quarterly report to the Health Access Oversight Committee as required by Act 127 approved in 2002 and found in 33 V.S.A. Chapter 19 § 2001. This report covers the activities of the Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) for the second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2008.

The three requirements are set out in bold italics. The OVHA's response follows each requirement.

§2001 (c) (1) "The director of the office of Vermont health access shall report quarterly to the health access oversight committee concerning the following aspects of the pharmacy best practices and cost control program:

(1) the efforts undertaken to educate health care providers about the preferred drug list and the program's utilization review procedures;"

During this quarter, the following educational mailings were sent to pharmacy providers:

- October 2007: OVHA Pharmacy Alert (sent via fax blast and email on October 1, 2007) – Notification of six-month delay in a new federal law requiring the use of tamper-resistant prescription drug pads. Notice was also sent to provider associations for electronic distribution to membership.
- October 2007: OVHA Pharmacy Alert – Notification of delay in a new specialty pharmacy arrangement for Synagis®, which is a treatment for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in infants and children.
- November 2007: OVHA Pharmacy Bulletin – Topics: 1) Information on the Green Mountain Care family of health care programs, including descriptions of ESI and Catamount Health. 2) Notification of the change in the pharmacy compound fee for multi-ingredient compound claims.
- November 2007: OVHA Pharmacy Bulletin – Claims processing and enrollment information for Part C and Part D plans.
- December 2007: OVHA Pharmacy Bulletin – Notification of preferred diabetic testing supplies and information on prior authorization requirements for Suboxone® and Subutex® prescriptions.

In an attempt to make all documents available to interested parties, the department maintains a web page with information related to the Pharmacy Benefits Management Program at:

http://ovha.vermont.gov/for-providers.

"(2) the number of prior authorization requests made;"

Clinical Prior Authorization Requests					
	Requests	**Approved**	**Changes**	**Denied**	**Fair Hearing Status**
October	1576	1246	127	203	
November	1375	1102	105	168	
December	1231	1007	94	130	Withdrawn: 1
Total	4182	3355	326	501	1

Quantity Limit Prior Authorization Requests					
	Requests	**Approved**	**Changes**	**Denied**	**Fair Hearing Status**
October	137	108	15	14	
November	107	91	6	10	
December	118	95	11	12	
Total	362	294	32	36	0

Combined Clinical and Quantity Limit Prior Authorization Requests					
	Requests	**Approved**	**Changes**	**Denied**	**Fair Hearing Status**
October	1713	1354	142	217	
November	1482	1193	111	178	
December	1349	1102	105	142	Withdrawn: 1
Total	4544	3649	358	537	1

Data in the table above show that the OVHA received a total of 4,182 requests for **clinical prior authorizations (PA)** during the second quarter of State Fiscal Year 2008 (October, November and December 2007). This represents a 0.57% decrease in the total number of clinical prior authorization received from the previous quarter (4,206), and an 11.59% decrease from one year ago, Q2 SFY 2007, when total PA requests were 4,730.

This is the first quarter that the OVHA is reporting **quantity limit prior authorization (PA)** requests. Subsequent reports will include comparisons to previous periods.

"(3) the number of utilization review events (other than prior authorization requests)."

	October	November	December	Q2 Totals	Percentage of Total
Drug-Age Precaution	14	17	19	50	0.02%
Drug-Disease Precaution	3,474	3,479	3,812	10,765	3.77%
Drug-Drug Interaction	23,646	24,006	25,880	73,532	25.75%
Ingredient Duplication	8,506	7,934	8,831	25,271	8.85%
Refill Too Soon	3,784	3,568	4,089	11,441	4.01%
Therapeutic Duplication	55,201	53,675	55,573	164,449	57.60%
	94,625	**92,679**	**98,204**	**285,508**	**100.00%**

During the second quarter of SFY 2008, a total of 285,508 utilization events occurred. This was an 8.72% increase from the previous quarter, in which a total of 262,607 utilization review events occurred. This increase is, in large part, attributed to additional industry-created DUR edits created by MediSpan. MediSpan is an industry source that manages the clinical drug interaction and other DUR edits used by the OVHA's pharmacy claims adjudication system.

Below is a comparison of the utilization review events for the first and second quarters of SFY 2008.

	Q2 SFY 08	Q1 SFY 08	Percent Change:
Drug-Age Precaution	50	21	138.10%
Drug-Disease Precaution	10,765	10,197	5.57%
Drug-Drug Interaction	73,532	68,870	6.77%
Ingredient Duplication	25,271	21,159	19.43%
Refill Too Soon	11,441	10,806	5.88%
Therapeutic Duplication	164,449	151,554	8.51%
Total	**285,508**	**262,607**	**8.72%**